United Nations A/71/PV.90

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

90th plenary meeting
Thursday, 6 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda items 19 and 73 (*continued*)

Sustainable development

Oceans and the law of the sea

(a) Oceans and the law of the sea

Draft resolution (A/71/L.74)

The President: Last month, United Nations Headquarters in New York experienced the extraordinary energies of the Ocean Conference. Thousands of participants from across science, civil society, Government, multilateral organizations and the private sector gathered to forge a global movement in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 — the ocean Goal. Global consciousness has now been raised about the oceans' problems to such a degree that none of us can say any longer that we are unaware of the extent of the trouble we have brought upon the ocean. With the many solutions and remedial actions identified at the Conference, a breakthrough has come in the form of a long-sought turning point in the restoration to humankind of a relationship of respect and balance with the ocean.

The Conference proved to be an affirmation of our deep concern about the effects of human activity on our shared environment. It served as further proof that the great mass of humankind and the Governments that lead us remain united in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement and that we are determined to see them implemented in fidelity to the fundament that sustains us.

The Ocean Conference produced three ambitious key outcomes. First, the seven partnership dialogues outlined every detail of the truth about the current state of the ocean by presenting the best available scientific evidence. Participants in the dialogues responded by putting forward effective solutions to those problems, and we have captured those solutions.

Secondly, nearly 1,400 voluntary commitments were made by Governments, the United Nations system, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, notifying us of the practical remedial actions they will be taking to realize the targets of SDG 14.

Thirdly, the Conference adopted the "Our ocean, our future: call for action" document that we have before us today (A/71/L.74). By that call for action, Governments reaffirm their commitment to conserving and sustainably using the ocean and its resources. We have highlighted the actions needed to achieve the SDG 14 targets and made a firm call for appropriate follow-up on the implementation of our ocean commitments.

Taken together, those three outcomes constitute a massive work plan for us all if we are to ensure that the ocean Goal is successfully implemented. As we move forward together in this great task, we are fortified by the global energy and resources generated by the Ocean Conference. Where the ocean is concerned, there is no them and us, no division between the public and the private sector, North and South, East and West. The

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ocean unites us. Is it the common heritage of humankind and our ultimate home.

In a welcome development at the Conference, Kenya and Portugal offered to host a second United Nations Ocean Conference in 2020, to serve as the next key moment for assessing and adjusting our progress towards the full implementation of SDG 14 in time for the Goal's targets to reach maturity by 2030.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Governments of Sweden and Fiji, as co-Presidents of the Conference; the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Wu Hongbo; the Special Adviser to the co-Presidents, Mr. Serpa Soares; the United Nations system, which so ably supported them all; and all those who made the Conference such a success. I would like to express special thanks to the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Singapore, who were instrumental in finalizing the document that is presented here this morning for the General Assembly's endorsement.

Through the Ocean Conference, we have truly begun the process of reversing the cycle of decline that human activity has brought upon the ocean. By adopting the call for action today we will signal our determination to maintain the momentum launched at the Ocean Conference. From here we must move to the High-level Political Forum, where these outcomes will be discussed in further detail next week. We move forward with the dogged determination required of us to achieve the targets of SDG 14. We must restore humankind's relationship of respect and balance with the Ocean.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/71/L.74, entitled " Our ocean, our future: call for action".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.74?

Draft resolution A/71/L.74 was adopted (resolution 71/312).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by representatives from their seats.

Mr. Daunivalu (Fiji): I would like to make a brief statement following the adoption of the call for action document. In making this statement, I align myself with the statement to be delivered shortly by the Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States.

My delegation commends the General Assembly for its consensus adoption of the Ocean Conference call for action (resolution 71/312). That political declaration is an important outcome of the high-level United Nations Ocean Conference. It represents our leaders' political commitment to the full implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14. It outlines for the international community the actions to be taken in order to make a reality of the aims of SDG 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With it, we have in our hands a political mandate and road map for fleshing out the various targets under the ocean Goal.

The adoption today of the call for action also represents a significant step forward for humankind in preserving our planet's ecosystem. Together with the thousands of voluntary commitments pledged, we are well on our way to restoring the ocean's health and in turn increasing humankind's chances of surviving and maintaining its livelihood for both the immediate and the long term.

As a co-President of the Ocean Conference with the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Fiji's Prime Minister was very pleased with the high level of engagement and active participation in the Conference by States Members of the United Nations and other non-State participants. My delegation would therefore like to echo my Prime Minister's words of appreciation to all delegations and stakeholders for the very positive and constructive spirit in which our work was carried out over the past year so as to enable us to achieve such great results. We also want to thank the facilitators of the call-for-action document, the Permanent Representatives of Singapore and Portugal, for their sterling efforts to hold true to the mandates of the modalities resolution for the Conference (resolution 70/303). They helped us to produce what is indeed a consensus, concise, focused and intergovernmentally agreed declaration to support the implementation of Goal 14.

On behalf of the Presidents of the Conference, we would also like to express our appreciation for the invaluable support from the United Nations system and the advisory group during the past year. Needless to say, the Presidents' ability to discharge their responsibility for the Conference would not have been so successful without a well-oiled, cohesive, supportive Secretariat

team. We therefore wish to convey our Government's special thanks to the Secretariat staff for all the guidance and support provided throughout.

I have one final point to make. It was pointed out by the Presidents during the closing of the Ocean Conference that our work regarding the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 has only just begun, and we echo those sentiments here and therefore welcome the Assembly's adoption today of the call-for-action document. In that regard, we also welcome the announcement by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal that they will be hosting the next Ocean Conference, as we press on to fully implement Sustainable Development Goal 14 by 2030. For the immediate term, we look forward to following up and reviewing the progress of our work on Goal 14 at the High-level Political Forum later this month and in future sessions.

Mr. Sisilo (Solomon Islands): I have the honour to deliver this explanation of position following the adoption of the United Nations Oceans Conference call for action (resolution 71/312) on behalf of the 12 Pacific small island developing States.

At the outset, I would like to offer our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the Presidents of the United Nations Ocean Conference, the Prime Minister of Fiji and the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, as well as to the facilitators of the consultations on the call for action, the Permanent Representatives of Singapore and Portugal.

The call for action represents an important accomplishment for all of us, especially the Pacific small island developing States. As we have said repeatedly throughout the process, and take this opportunity to reiterate once again, our group's geographic composition is more than 98 per cent ocean. The ocean is therefore the indispensable foundation of our very existence and sustainable development. Given the importance of the ocean to our islands, we are heartened by the fact that the call for action contains appropriate references to small island developing States and least-developed countries. We are also heartened by the level of ambition that this document reflects. As the mounting threats to the health of our ocean reach critical tipping points, the actions that world leaders have committed to could not be more timely.

Furthermore, given the increasing impact of climate change on the ocean, we also welcome the recognition in the call for action of the importance of the Paris Climate Change Agreement to ensuring the health, productivity and resilience of our ocean. But we stress that the call for action is a catalyst for our work, not a conclusion to it. Together with the 1,400 volunteer commitments made at the Ocean Conference, we must undertake the necessary actions to ensure that the political ambition it represents is not lost. This moment is a launching point to ensure that we move towards the full and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. We look forward to following up and reviewing the progress that has been made at the High-level Political Forum later this month. Furthermore, we welcome and support Kenya and Portugal's commitment to hosting a successful Ocean Conference.

Ms. Pierce (United States of America): The United States joined the consensus on resolution 71/312, which endorses the call-for-action outcome document adopted on 9 June at the close of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. In doing so, we reaffirm the statements and clarifications made by Ambassador Bolton at the adoption of the call for action and stress that the United States does not support the reference to the transfer of technology in paragraph 12 and dissociates itself from the language of sub-paragraph (p) of paragraph 13, which refers to World Trade Organization negotiations and special and differential treatment.

Ms. Elgarf (Egypt): Egypt wishes to thank the facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 on the commendable efforts they exerted in trying to forge consensus on this outcome document, known as the call for action (resolution 71/312).

Egypt was pleased to join the consensus on this important document, for we know full well the importance of our joint action to take steps to implement Sustainable Development Goal 14, just as we must make similar efforts to implement the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nonetheless, Egypt would like to note that, in order to proceed effectively with the call for action, we must ensure that we do so on a solid basis of fact. In that regard, we note regretfully that the language in sub-paragraph (g) of paragraph 13 of the outcome document before us does not meet that standard of factual accuracy. We are concerned about the language in sub-paragraph (g) that

implies that invasions of alien species result only from human-related activities in the ocean and on marine life. That is factually incorrect when there are other, equally widespread and more chronic causes, chief of which is the adverse effect of climate change on the marine environment.

With that in mind, Egypt would like to express its full reservations about sub-paragraph (g) of paragraph 13 of the call for action. We do not consider its language factually correct, and it does not reflect our consent to working on its basis in future. We would also like to request that this reservation be part of the official record.

Ms. Melikbekyan (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation would like to express its gratitude to the organizers of the Conference and its Presidents for their efforts in convening such a large-scale event on such an important topic. We would also like to highlight the contributions of the President of the General Assembly and his Office, as well as the coordinators of the negotiation process, the Permanent Representatives of Portugal and Singapore. The discussions during the Conference enabled us to address a range of issues on the preservation and good use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

We would like to comment on sub-paragraph (p) of paragraph 13 of the call to action, which has to do with fisheries subsidies. We do not fully agree with the approach set forth. In our view, we should consider the fact that the issue is sensitive and multifaceted, and that there are no easy solutions that can apply in all cases. A discussion among experts on the issue should be conducted within the World Trade Organization, which is the relevant body for that topic. We can discuss this issue further in the appropriate forum. Our delegation will therefore take a step back from that particular wording in that sub-paragraph.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position on this item. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 73?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 19.

Agenda items 13 and 117 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/71/L.75)

The President: The draft resolution before us (A/71/L.75), entitled "Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", presented by the delegation of Brazil, is another critical milestone on the road to 2030. The development of the global indicator framework was mandated under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a means of monitoring the implementation of the Agenda's 17 Goals and 169 Targets. On behalf of the entire General Assembly, I commend the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for their mammoth efforts in preparing the framework. Aided by international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, they succeeded in developing a robust, comprehensive and flexible indicator framework. The framework was agreed to by the Statistical Commission in March and subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council in early June.

The framework will greatly assist decision makers in understanding which interventions are working and which are falling short. It will help the international community to determine which countries or regions are pressing ahead under the 2030 Agenda and which require additional support. It will also help all of us to measure what we truly value, to keep our promise to leave no one behind and, most important, to ensure accountability for the lofty commitments made in September 2015. To be of maximum value, the framework will have to be accompanied by an ambitious programme of capacity-building and by the embracing of new, innovative tools to support data collection and dissemination. Let us set our minds and muscle to what lies ahead.

With the adoption of draft resolution A/71/L.75, the issue last week of the Secretary-General's report on reforming the United Nations development system,

the ongoing consultations aimed at aligning the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the holding next week of the High-level Political Forum, the global architecture required to support SDG implementation appears to be progressing in the right direction. I commend the draft resolution to the Assembly for its adoption.

I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.75.

Mr. De Azevedo Araujo Filho (Brazil): Brazil is proud and pleased to present, for adoption by the General Assembly, draft resolution A/71/L.75, entitled "Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Its main objective is to formally adopt the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a voluntary country-led structure for following up and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Brazil has long been an active player in discussions about sustainable development in the multilateral arena. In 1992, our country hosted a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — the Earth Summit. Its seminal outcomes gave birth, among other things, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Two decades later, 189 Member States and more than 30,000 civil society representatives met again in Rio de Janeiro to discuss the future of sustainable development.

In the outcome document (resolution 66/288) of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", we agreed that achieving sustainable development is a universal undertaking. Developing and developed countries alike would have to follow a specific road map with a view to attaining sustainable development in its three dimensions. That road map became the Sustainable Development Goals, and the SDGs were agreed on two years later, in 2014, after an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process. One year after that, the SDGs were integrated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to form its core.

The adoption of the SDG global indicator framework can be considered the last step in the construction of the first universal development framework in the history of the United Nations. It provides Member States and the United Nations development system with complete metrics and methodologies for gathering and analysing data on the implementation of the SDGs. It is flexible in nature and its content will be updated periodically to reflect our changing world.

Brazil is proud to have chaired the United Nations Statistical Commission during the formulation of the global indicator framework. We are deeply grateful for the constructive engagement of all delegations, which made this breakthrough possible. The positive impact of the SDGs, which can already be felt in our societies as well as our Governments, gives us reason to believe that a sustainable world can be achieved in the coming years. Brazil will do its utmost to continue to contribute to make our economies, societies and ecosystems sustainable for present and future generations.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/71/L.75.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.75?

Draft resolution A/71/L.75 was adopted (resolution 71/313).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that, in accordance with decision 34/40, explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mrs. Arrieta Munguia (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like to welcome today's adoption of resolution 71/313, because its global indicator framework is a major step forward in our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As you rightly said, Mr. President, we want to commend the United Nations Statistical Commission for its work and that of all the experts involved. We salute Brazil's leadership and would particularly like to request that, when future such issues are being negotiated in this Hall, enough time is always allowed for consultations with Member States. We had Brazil's flexibility to help ensure that the resolution could be adopted in the same form in the Assembly as it was in the Statistical Commission and the Economic and Social Council. We support this extremely important event and simply wish to state formally that it is important that Member States have sufficient lead time to ensure that in future they can familiarize themselves with the draft texts in

advance so as to be able to discuss them and adopt them by consensus.

Ms. Messmer Mokhtar (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Switzerland welcomes and fully supports today's adoption of resolution 71/313, entitled "Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The resolution gives the United Nations Statistical Commission a clear mandate until the year 2030. Switzerland views it as an important step in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, since its adoption of the global indicator framework is crucial to the global follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. However, the Statistical Commission should refine the indicators every year and subject them to a comprehensive review in 2020 and 2025.

Today's resolution covers not only the global indicator framework but other necessary elements for collecting the data needed to produce all the indicators. First, the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data defines the areas where additional investment is required, and thereby enables statisticians to establish priorities. Secondly, the resolution also emphasizes the fact that national statistical systems' official statistics and data represent an essential foundation for the global indicator framework. It also acknowledges the need to use unofficial data when nothing else is available. In our view, a third important element is the relationship it describes between the statistical and political communities, which regularly exchange information every year at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In conclusion, with our adoption of today's resolution, we are assigning to the official statistical community and the United Nations Statistical Commission, which represents it, the leadership role needed for the global coordination of all the relevant activities. The second United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in October 2018, is the next phase of that process. Switzerland welcomes the opportunity to work with the General Assembly on this important issue.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position following the adoption of resolution 71/313.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 13 and 117. Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(k) Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Note by the Secretary-General (A/71/936)

The President: Members will recall that, by its decision 67/419, of 10 June 2013, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, confirmed the appointment of Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for a term of office of four years, beginning on 1 September 2013 and ending on 31 August 2017. In paragraph 2 of his note, the Secretary-General proposes to confirm the appointment of Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for a further four-year term of office, beginning on 1 September 2017 and ending on 31 August 2021.

May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to confirm the appointment of Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for a further four-year term of office, beginning on 1 September 2017 and ending on 31 August 2021?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (k) of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations A/71/PV.91

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

91st plenary meeting
Thursday, 13 July 2017, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 69 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

(c) Special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Draft resolution (A/71/L.78)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Jamaica to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.78.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): My delegation is pleased to have collaborated with the delegation of Mexico to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.78 for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly. We welcome the support received from the many delegations that participated in the consultations on the text and thank those that joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

The crisis spawned by the introduction and spread of cholera in Haiti, which resulted from the actions and inaction of the United Nations, is not one to which we can turn a blind eye. It stands starkly as a stain against the good name of the United Nations and represents a challenge to our shared purpose of promoting and preserving human rights, international peace and security, and development.

Jamaica therefore wholeheartedly welcomed the apology offered by the former Secretary-General, which included his acknowledgement that the United Nations had a moral responsibility to help Haiti's cholera victims. We are in full support of the elaboration of the new United Nations system approach to cholera in Haiti and call on individual Member States, the embodiment of our United Nations, to make every effort to repair the harm caused by cholera and to work to prevent further outbreaks. That will not be easy, as cholera is now endemic in Haiti and will continue to affect people for years to come. It is our responsibility, therefore, to mobilize the political will and financial support required to end the transmission of this deadly disease, which continues to afflict our fellow Member State some seven years after its outbreak.

Through both its tracks, the new United Nations approach serves as a strategic plan to effectively tackle the multiple dimensions and complexities of addressing the cholera crisis. That includes working from a humanitarian perspective, addressing the human rights situation and supporting sustainable development. In our view, our full response should always ensure a people-centred approach so that our paramount focus is on the rights, needs and circumstances of the victims, their families and communities.

We note with concern the limited resources that have been made available to fund the cholera response. It is for that reason that Jamaica supports the Secretary-General's proposal that Member States voluntarily waive the return of the 2015-2016 unencumbered balances and credits from miscellaneous income and adjustments from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and instead direct them to the United

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Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. We recognize that, at a minimum, the amount that could be raised would be small relative to the amount required. However, given the dire situation, we believe that every feasible source of funding can make a difference. In that vein, we also welcome the appointment of the Secretary-General's new Special Envoy for Haiti and express our optimism that her work to build partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders to support the United Nations work in Haiti will yield sustained results.

Jamaica looks forward to opportunities for further dialogue among the membership on more effective ways to provide further support for the new approach, especially with a view to ensuring that the United Nations lives up to its commitment to the people of Haiti, in particular the victims of the cholera outbreak and their families.

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/71/L.78, entitled "The new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti".

For the Assembly's information, the draft resolution has closed for e-sponsorship.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Ms. De Miranda (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of A/71/L.78: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.78?

Draft resolution A/71/L.78 was adopted (resolution 71/161 B).

The President: We will now hear statements following the adoption of the resolution.

Mrs. Nazaire (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, my delegation would like to thank all the Member States that supported resolution 71/161 B, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, which the Assembly just adopted by consensus. This adoption reflects the significant international support for the new approach, which is marked by a more open and generous strategy with regard to the repercussions of the cholera crisis in Haiti and, more important, one that is more in line with the ideal of the universal solidarity embodied by the United Nations.

My delegation therefore takes this opportunity to express its overwhelming gratitude to Jamaica and Mexico for their role as co-facilitators of the resolution. Their tireless efforts led to the broad support that will bolster the legitimacy and effectiveness of the new plan through its increased visibility and the solemn commitment of the international community to making an unprecedented effort to mobilize resources and garner moral support in the pursuit of eradicating cholera and its adverse effects in Haiti.

For my country, this epidemic has been a calamity that has served to highlight the significant structural obstacles to sustainable development in Haiti. My delegation is gratified that we now have the appropriate tools to channel the will and efforts of our loyal partners to this fight, for which my country lacks resources. In that regard, we welcome the recent nomination of Ms. Josette Sheeran as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti.

In conclusion, our hope for success is greatly renewed with this resolution. For that, my delegation is extremely grateful to all.

Mrs. Arrieta Munguia (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): It was a great honour for Mexico, alongside Jamaica, to co-facilitate such an important resolution (resolution 71/161 B), which we consider to be a genuine watershed in the fight against cholera in Haiti, as it enables us to redirect the balances and credits of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to such an important development issue — health, sanitation and the long-term fight to permanently eradicate this scourge.

Mexico intends to continue to support Haiti this year in what we call the Yucatán Project. We have already pledged $362,000 to a fund for rebuilding an important national institution for Haitian midwives as part of our health focus. We hope that we can soon know the details of the resolutions of the closure of MINUSTAH. At that point we will be able to consider further contributions to our neighbouring brotherly country of Haiti.

Mr. Ten-Pow (Guyana): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

I wish to first express our region's appreciation to the General Assembly for its support for resolution 71/161 B, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti.

CARICOM is pleased that the United Nations has remained consistent in its efforts to address the situation in Haiti. We were especially encouraged when former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the new approach and urged all Member States to give their full support to the initiative aimed at controlling and eliminating cholera in Haiti. CARICOM believes that this initiative is one of the main platforms upon which progress in Haiti will continue to be made, and we wish to reiterate our commitment to the new approach. In that connection, we welcome the recent appointment of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Ms. Josette Sheeran. We believe that her appointment will give further impetus to the full implementation of the new approach.

While considerable national, regional and international efforts have been deployed in the fight against cholera in Haiti since 2010, and considerable progress has been made, Haiti continues to face significant challenges that affect those efforts. We are therefore heartened by the information contained in the second report of the Secretary-General to Member States (A/71/895) that under the new approach the number of suspected cases of cholera has declined substantially since 2016. That is an illustration of how a collaborative approach can positively and significantly impact the situation in our sister CARICOM country. We should be under no illusion, however, about the magnitude of the task at hand, as cholera is now endemic in Haiti.

The people of Haiti need the support of the entire international community, not only to alleviate the suffering caused by this deadly disease but also to positively and sustainably address the underlying conditions that increase the risk of cholera, in particular poverty — and in the case of Haiti, extreme poverty — weak sanitation infrastructure, limited access to clean water, poor housing conditions and a lack of basic health services. Please note that all of those are goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and help make the case for special assistance for Haiti, not only as a small island developing State but also because of the moral responsibility that the Organization bears towards this Member State.

We welcome the ongoing implementation of various projects by United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, among others. Those efforts all contribute to the declining incidence of cholera in Haiti. While many challenges remain to be overcome, we believe that the United Nations is committed to the task at hand and, in partnership with other stakeholders in the international community, will continue to achieve tangible progress.

In order for it to be fully implemented, the new approach needs adequate financing. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's stated intention to invite Member States to voluntarily direct their share of the unencumbered balance and other income for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund so as to support the new approach. CARICOM encourages further voluntary financial and other appropriate support to ensure that the momentum that we now see is maintained.

In conclusion, the States members of the Caribbean Community stand in solidarity with our sister nation of Haiti. We recognize that it is crucial to maintain the partnership among the United Nations, stakeholders in the international community and the Government and the people of Haiti in order to continue building on the progress achieved to date. We therefore urge all Member States to continue to support the new approach as we collaborate for continued progress in Haiti.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Jamaica for the leadership demonstrated throughout the consultations leading to the adoption of the very important resolution 71/161 B, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, which is certainly

a new step in the right direction that allows us to continue supporting the Government and the people of Haiti with the help of the Group of Friends of Haiti, of which Colombia is a member.

My delegation is convinced that the text of the resolution establishes a new road map so as to achieve a comprehensive approach that allows us to make better use of resources and efforts aimed at overcoming the serious humanitarian health crisis in our region. To that end, we add our voice to the call on Member States, as well as various regional and international organizations, so that we may continue our contribution to the well-being of a country that, despite its difficulties, has always shown great courage and enormous determination.

As the representative of Haiti just stated, it is also useful to point out how the political progress that the country has made has certainly contributed to the drawdown of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, planned for next October, and its transition to — what is most important for us — justice support through the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti.

That has also allowed us as a region to strengthen and reaffirm the importance of South-South cooperation, and as the Group of Friends of Haiti did during its most recent visit to Haiti, two months ago, establish greater coordination among all the stakeholders involved in confronting the challenges related to cholera, directed towards strengthening a system that can respond more comprehensively and improve living conditions for Haitians. That also has a more historical connotation for us, because it was from Haiti in 1815 that the liberator Simón Bolívar relaunched the liberty march that made us a nation. Without Haiti, Colombia would not have been able to become a republic. That is why we will always be ready to support Haiti in building of a more prosperous country, as it is on the path to overcoming its difficulties.

Mr. Nayan (Philippines): The Philippines co-sponsored resolution 71/161 B, as it was compelled by a need to assist the people of Haiti, 800,000 of whom have been affected by the cholera epidemic and remain in dire need of help. In response to the call for financial and other appropriate support in paragraph 3 of the resolution, and in solidarity with the people of Haiti, the Philippines is pleased to make a voluntary financial contribution of $50,000 to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund in support of the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): We are grateful to the delegations of Jamaica and Mexico for having facilitated resolution 71/161 B, which we also co-sponsored and on which we joined the consensus.

Argentina reiterates its concern about the persistence of the cholera epidemic in Haiti notwithstanding the efforts and progress made by the Haitian Government and the various regional and international actors to alleviate the situation. In that regard, we support the relevant efforts of the Secretary-General to implement a new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti geared towards intensifying the Organization's support for eliminating cholera by catalysing actions so that all Haitians have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as providing material assistance and support to those most directly affected.

We also welcome the establishment of the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, as well as the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Haiti, who will be responsible for designing a broad strategy for garnering voluntary contributions and supporting Haitian efforts to meet its sustainable development goals. We wish Ms. Sheeran the greatest success in her new functions.

Since 1994, Argentina has participated in all United Nations efforts aimed at assisting Haiti in its efforts to achieve stability and development. In that vein, we welcomed the successful drawdown of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the transition towards a new stage, which we hope will ultimately lead to consolidating peace in Haiti. After 13 years and following the departure of our battalion and the air unit in April 2015, our level 2 military hospital will leave the country in August. That hospital has been heavily involved in United Nations efforts to alleviate and solve the various health issues inherent to its mission, including in the prevention of cholera and care of its victims, as well as the devastating consequences of the 2010 earthquake, when initially it was the only operating health facility left intact.

The end of the MINUSTAH mandate does not, however, mean that we will draw away from Haiti because, besides continuing with our bilateral cooperation, we will continue to participate with the

current 15 Argentine civilian police officers, with the possibility of an increase if possible and necessary within the framework of the mandate of the new Mission — the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, so as to continue with the development of the Haitian National Police's capacities. We are confident that the new Mission will also contribute to implementing the Organization's new approach to cholera.

In conclusion, for all those reasons, we reiterate our country's commitment to the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti. In that regard, we would like to announce that Argentina will make a voluntary contribution of $10,000 for 2017 to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Mr. Bonser (Canada): Canada was proud to co-sponsor resolution 71/161 B and to continue to actively support the United Nations efforts in fighting cholera in Haiti. In that regard, we thank the Secretary-General for his most recent report (A/71/895), on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti and for his ongoing commitment to ensure its successful implementation.

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate Ms. Josette Sheeran on her appointment as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti. Let me assure Ms. Sheeran of Canada's full support as she carries out her important mandate.

We are encouraged to see a reduction in the number of suspected cases of cholera in recent months in Haiti. That shows that the intensified approach in place is working. But those encouraging signs should not be used as an excuse for us not to do more. Indeed, now is the time for us all to support the new approach until cholera is eradicated in Haiti.

(*spoke in French*)

Canada supports the proposal of the Secretary-General to reallocate the unencumbered balance of the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to fight cholera in Haiti. We will therefore respond positively to his request, which we hope will enable us to respond partially to the urgent needs outlined in the report. We also call upon other States Members of the United Nations to respond favourably to the request.

(*spoke in English*)

In conclusion, let me reiterate my country's strong support for Haiti's long-term development and to the fight against cholera. As the United Nations and the international community, responding adequately to this crisis is both our moral obligation and a key to ensure that Haiti progresses on the road to development.

Mr. Castañeda Solares (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala thanks the delegations of Jamaica and Mexico for presenting and facilitating resolution 71/161 B, entitled "The new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti". Guatemala co-sponsored the resolution, thereby reaffirming our support for the new United Nations approach presented by the Secretary-General.

The resolution acknowledges the urgent need to alleviate the suffering that cholera causes to the Haitian population and, at the same time, urges that efforts be made to prevent the prolongation of the crisis. We commend the efforts spearheaded by the Government of Haiti, which are supported by the United Nations and other regional and international actors. Similarly, we support the recommendation that the unencumbered balance, other income credited and adjustments to the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period 2015-2016 be redirected to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Guatemala takes this opportunity to acknowledge the work previously conducted by the military and police contingents who, operating under MINUSTAH's mandate, coordinated and established quick-impact projects focusing, in many cases, on the need for clean water and sanitation in the country. At the time, many of those projects contributed to the Haitian Government's efforts to strengthen the country's drinking-water supply throughout the country. Through the implementation of those kinds of projects, notable efforts were made to combat waterborne diseases such as cholera. We hope that this new approach will include lessons learned in the past and provide the continuity required.

Finally, we wish Ms. Josette Sheeran every success as the new Special Envoy for Haiti in her efforts to reduce the impact of cholera in the country.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, we would like to thank the delegations of Mexico and Jamaica for presenting resolution 71/161 B, which Chile co-sponsored.

In the current context, and with the difficulties that Haiti has faced, the cholera epidemic continues to be

one of the main humanitarian challenges. Although the incidence of the disease has decreased since 2011, statistics remain alarmingly high and the response capacity has been insufficient. The devastating passage of Hurricane Matthew, in 2016, served only to make the context more complex. The cholera epidemic can come to an end only if there is a broad response from the international community, in particular from the States represented here in the General Assembly.

We commend the steps taken by former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in acknowledging the role that the United Nations played and in launching a new approach to fight cholera in Haiti, which is supported by Secretary-General António Guterres. Chile supports that plan, which includes not only the issue of the response in the short, medium and long terms, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but also includes material steps to support the victims, their families and communities. We believe that the United Nations has a debt to repay in that regard, which is why the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund requires the financing necessary to support the programme — on both track 1 and track 2 of the new approach.

Supporting efforts to combat cholera has been a priority for Chile. As a participant in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, we contributed to the work the Mission conducted in its various quick-impact projects to support Haiti's national plan for the elimination of cholera. In 2015, Chile made financial contributions to the vaccination programme against cholera launched by the Pan American Health Organization, UNICEF and local authorities, which focused primarily on Haiti's children. Along the same lines, last February Chile was one of the first countries to make a contribution to the Trust Fund, thereby reaffirming our commitment to strengthening institutions, development and the well-being of Haiti and its people.

With regard to the text of the resolution, we value the fact that it is not only a document that provides political support; it also includes specific measures, as indicated in paragraphs 4 and 5. We are pleased that resolution 71/161 B was adopted by consensus. We hope that it will provide effective support to the new approach and thereby help to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

The President: We have heard the last speaker following the adoption of the resolution.

Before concluding, I would like to commend delegations for a very positive and responsible debate today. I particularly applaud the statement made on behalf of the Caribbean Community, which was so positive and forward-looking. It was very much on the mark in emphasizing the role of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 6. Now is the time for us all to act.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 69.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.